

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

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O R 122050Z AUG 77 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5094

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBSSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1856

CARACAS PASS AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GS

TAGS: GY, PINT

SUBJECT: GUYANESE OPPOSITION LEADER CALLS FOR NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY: CHEDDI JAGAN, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP), HAS ISSUED A CALL FOR A NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FRONT AND A NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT. REPORTEDLY THE PPP LEDER HOPES TO USE PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM'S RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES AS MEANS OF SPLITTING THE LEFT WING OF THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) AWAY FROM THE MODERATE OR "BOURGEOIS" WING.WE DOUBT THAT JAGAN CAN ATTRACT THE PNC'S LEFT WING TO THE PPP BUT HIS GAMBIT MAY ADD TO BURNHAM'S ALREADY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL TROUBLES. END SUMMARY.

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1. JAGAN'S PPP ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT ON AUGUST 9 CALLING FOR A NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FRONT AND A NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT INCLUDING ALL PARTIES AND GROUPS WHICH ARE PROGRESSIVE, ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND WISH TO SEE GUYANA TAKE A SOCIALIST-ORIENTED PATH OF DEVELOPMENT. "ALL REACTIONARY, PRO-IMPERIALIST, RACIALIST

(SIC) PARTIES OR GROUPS" WOULD BE EXCLUDED ACCORDING TO THE PPP STATMENT. THE CONTEXT MAKES CLEAR THAT THE DOMINANT LEADERSHIP OF THE PNC AND THE GOVERNMENT TODAY WOULD BE EXCLUDED, BUT THAT INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS WITHIN THE PNC COULD QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW NATIONAL FRONT.

2. FULLY HALF OF THE FOUR PAGE STATEMENT WAS DEVOTED TO A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT IT CALLED THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL CRISIS EXISTING IN GUYANA AND THE FAILURE OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THE SEVERE PROBLEMS AFFLICTING THE NATION, INCLUDING RISING UNEMPLOYMENT, CRIME, PROSTITUTION, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF THE COUNTRY.

3. IT ALLEGED THAT IMPERIALISM, CONCERNED WITH THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST TREND IN THE CARIBBEAN AND GUYANA, NOW INTENDS TO USE ITS ECONOMIC POWER AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO ARREST OR REVERSE THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST TREND IN GUYANA. BUT, THE STATEMENT WARNED--WITH THE VISIT OF ANDREW YOUNG APPARENTLY IN MIND-- GUYANESE SHOULD NOT BE FOOLED OR DELUDED BY THE NEW "FACE" AND THE "SMILES" OF IMPERIALISM. IMPERIALISM'S STRATEGIC GAME AND OBJECTIVES HAVE NOT CHANGED. THESE ARE TO DOMINATE AND EXPLOIT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. METHODS, HOWEVER, HAVE CHANGED. BIG
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STICK METHODS HAVE PROVED COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. NOW RELIANCE IS PLACED ON MORE SUBTLE FORMS OF DOMINATION AND CONTROL.

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS RELEASE IMPERIALISM HAD TWO MAIN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES IN GUYANA. THE FIRST WAS TO HALT THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST PROCESS. THE SECOND WAS TO INSURE THAT THE NATIONAL LIBERATION REVOLUTION DOES NOT LEAD TO SOCIALISM. IMPERIALISM WOULD PLACE CONDITIONS ON ITS AID SUCH AS PROHIBITING FURTHER NATIONALIZATIONS, INSISTING ON A CAPITALIST ORIENTED PATH OF DEVELOPMENT WITH AN OPEN DOOR FOR FOREIGN PRIVATE CAPITAL. IT WOULD INSIST UPON INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT--ROADS, BRIDGES, SEA DEFENSE--RATHER THAN "BALANCED INDUSTRIAL-AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT." STATE CAPITALISM (I.E. THE PNC BRAND OF SOCIALISM AS DEFINED BY THE PPP), CAPITALIST TYPE AGRICULTURE, MIXED COMPANIED INVOLVING STATE AND FOREIGN TRANSNATIONAL MONOPOLIES WOULD BECOME DOMINANT. THE IMPERIALISTS WOULD INSIST THAT GUYANA'S LINKS TO CARICOM RATHER THAN ASSOCIATION WITH COMECON BE STRENGTHENED. LOCAL IMPERIALIST COLLA-

BORATORS IN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIQUIDATE THE PPP AND
"DESTROY THE LEFT IN THE PNC..."

5. BORROWING MONEY FROM OVERSEAS CAPITALIST STATES
WOULD ONLY WORSEN THE NATION'S PROBLEMS. THE BALANCE
OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT THIS YEAR, CONTINUED THE PPP
RELEASE, WAS G\$125 MILLION, AND BORROWING FROM
CAPITALISTS WOULD ONLY ACCELERATE GUYANA'S DECLINE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1856

CARACAS PASS AMBASSADOR YOUNG

6. THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD THE CHARGE
THAT, ACCORDING TO A SOURCE CLOSE TO JAGAN, THE LATTER
IS TRYING TO EXPLOIT THE SPLIT IN THE PNC BETWEEN ITS
"BOURGEOIS" AND ITS LEFTIST WINGS, NOW THAT BURNAHAM
APPEARS TO BE LEADING THE PNC RIGHTWARD. DURING A
PRESS CONFERENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE RELEASE, JAGAN
MENTIONED SEVEN TIMES THAT THE PNC WAS COMPOSED OF
A LEFT WING, THE RANK AND FILE AND "THE OTHERS." JAGAN
DENIED THAT THE TIMING OF HIS INITIATIVE HAD ANYTHING
TO DO WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ARRIVAL ON THE SAME DAY,
AND ASSERTED THAT THE DESPERATE STATE OF THE COUNTRY
MOTIVATED HIS ACTION.

7. ANALYSIS: JAGAN'S DESIRE TO SOW CONFUSION IN THE
PNC ON THE EVE OF AND DURING ITS BIENNIAL CONGRESS,
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AUGUST 12-20, WAS PROBABLY THE MAIN REASON WHY JAGAN
ISSUED HIS CALL OF THE NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT. HE
IS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE OF RADICAL POSITION PAPERS
PREPARED BY PNC SUB-COMMITTEES DURING JULY, SOME OF
WHICH EVEN CALL FOR CHANGING THE PNC'S NAME TO INCLUDE
THE WORD "SOCIALIST," AND ALSO KNOWS THAT SECTORS OF
THE PNC ARE UNHAPPY OVER THE LEADERSHIP'S RAPPROCHEMENT
WITH THE US. JAGAN WOULD LIKE TO INTERRUPT THIS
PROCESS AND PREVENT BURNHAM FROM MENDING HIS FENCES
WITH THE US SUFFICIENTLY TO OBTAIN SIGNIFICANT
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. JAGAN'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ABOUT
CARICOM UNDERLINES HIS ATTITUDE ABOUT REGIONAL
INTEGRATION AS OPPOSED TO INTEGRATION INTO COMECON. WE
DOUBT JAGAN CAN SUCCEED IN PULLING THE PNC APART,
EVEN THOUGH IT DOES HAVE DEEP DIVISIONS. WHAT HE MAY
DO, HOWEVER, IS MAKE BURNHAM MORE DISPOSED TO ACCOMODATE
THE PNC RADICALS AND CURB HIS MOVEMENT TOWARD MODERATION.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PINT, GY, (JAGAN, CHEDDI)
To: STATE CARACAS
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vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2758755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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